



August 25, 2006		MDA #117		VOLUME 31		No. 34		PUB. Weekly	
WEEKLY GRAIN COMMENTARY									
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This week, wheat and corn prices managed gains of 10 to 15 cents off their lows while soybean prices continued to be stuck at the bottom. For wheat, short supplies continue to be the major driver. With U.S. wheat harvest now completed, traders will begin to watch the demand side of the equation and foreign production. This week, the International Grain Council cut world wheat output to 593 MMT versus 596 MMT in July as a result of lower European output. Global ending stocks for 2006/07 are forecasted to be 117 MMT which is 10 MMT lower than USDA's latest forecast. One sign of growing export strength in the wheat market is the improvement in basis at the Louisiana Gulf. Over the last month, wheat basis at this export market has improved 26 cents a bushel. With short U.S. and world supplies of wheat the market may favor the upside in the next few months. For corn, most traders expect some improvement in corn production numbers from USDA in the coming months, but the demand side remains robust. Weekly exports continue to be robust at 40 to 45 million bushels a week, which is especially strong for this time of the year. Like wheat, the corn market may favor the upside as relatively tight stocks and strong demand should keep a floor under prices. Soybeans, on the other hand, face a much different supply outlook. Improved weather conditions since USDA's August 1 survey have traders expecting soybean production to grow in future reports. This will add more bushels to an already burdensome carryout and keep prices moving lower.									
WEEKLY CROP WEATHER SUMMARY – August 21, 2006					USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Maryland Field Office				
Dry weather continues to decrease yield potential. Double crop beans are of most concern with development being very slow. Corn is drying down very quickly in the dry weather. Vegetable crop yields are down because the dry weather is affecting pollination. Corn is now 85 percent dough and 50 percent dent. Seventy five percent of soybeans have set pods; ahead of the 53 percent five-year average. Soybean condition was rated 7 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 41 percent good and 8 percent excellent.									
CASH GRAINS – REGIONAL – (\$/bu) DEALERS AVERAGE CASH QUOTES									
Grade and Commodity		#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
Date		08/16	08/23	08/16	08/23	08/16	08/23	08/16	08/23
Western, MD		2.45	2.45	4.95	4.91	3.13	3.03	1.60	1.60
Central, MD		2.18	2.21	5.05	4.97	2.94	2.90	----	----
Southern, MD		2.12	2.10	5.22	5.14	2.97	----	1.45	1.45
Upper E. Shore		2.26	2.24	5.35	5.27	3.01	2.85	1.50	1.50
Lower E. Shore		2.32	2.33	5.51	5.47	2.99	2.85	1.58	1.58
Soybean Meal		Lower Eastern Shore				Dealer's Average Cash Quotes (\$/ton)			
Date		08/16	08/23	Date		08/16	08/23		
48% Soybean Meal		N/A		44% Soybean Meal		N/A		N/A	
FORWARD CONTRACT PRICE – REGIONAL (\$/bu) for Harvest Delivery Dealer's Avg. Quotes									
Grade and Commodity		#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
Date		08/16	08/23	08/16	08/23	08/16	08/23	08/16	08/23
Western MD		----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Central MD		2.18	2.16	5.05	4.97	3.36	3.32	----	----
Southern MD		2.19	2.16	5.29	5.22	3.76	3.60	----	----
Upper E Shore		2.32	2.29	5.42	5.35	3.80	3.64	----	----
Lower E Shore		2.40	2.37	5.53	5.47	3.76	3.63	----	----
GRAIN FUTURES – Chicago Board of Trade (Cents & Quarter – cents/bushel) Settle – August 23, 2006									
Corn		Soybeans		Wheat		Soybean Meal <sup>1</sup>			
06Sep	223'4	06Sep	552'2	06Sep	366'0	06Sep	159'7		
06Dec	240'0	06Nov	566'4	06Dec	387'0	06Oct	160'3		
07Mar	254'4	07Jan	579'2	07Mar	404'4	06Dec	162'6		
07May	264'6	07Mar	589'2	07May	415'0	07Jan	163'8		
07Jul	273'2	07May	599'4	07Jul	420'4	07Mar	166'7		
07Sep	280'4	07Jul	609'6	07Sep	429'6	07May	169'1		
/Price Unit: Dollars and cents/ton (100 tons (2,000 lbs/ton))									
HAY AND STRAW									
New Holland, PA - \$/ton – August 21, 2006									
Alfalfa		Mixed Hay		Timothy		Orchard grass		Straw	
80.00-200.00		80.00-230.00		115.00-210.00		110.00-195.00		90.00-155.00	
Westminster, MD - \$/bale – August 22, 2006   - - 75 Lots									
Alfalfa		Alfalfa Mix		Timothy		Timothy Mix		Grass Mix	
2.30-3.90		2.60-4.50		4.00-5.10		2.20-4.80		1.80-5.30	
								1.50-2.70	

POULTRY						
Negotiated price for truck lot of ready-to-cook, ice-pack, Grade A Fryers (\$ per CWT) – Week Ending – August 26, 2006						
	Current Week		Week Ago		Month Ago	Year Ago
N.Y. Weighted Avg.	65.87		64.96		69.60	69.56
12 City Composite	69.07		69.04		67.50	71.32
SHEEP & LAMBS - Westminster, MD - \$/cwt – August 22, 2006						
Sheep	37.50 - 60.00		Lambs	Under 50lbs	90.00 - 97.50	Feeders
Too fat	24.00 - 30.00			50 - 80 lbs	90.00 -110.00	65.00 - 80.00
				90 - 130 lbs	85.00 - 97.50	
TERMINAL MARKETS HOGS – August 23, 2006			DIRECT MARKET HOGS – Westminster, MD – August 22, 2006			
Base Price Range	Carcass Basis	Sows (1 -3)	Butcher Hogs		Sows	
a.m.	Base 185 lb Hog	300 – 449 lbs	#1 215 - 275 lbs	46.00	Heavyweights	32.00 - 37.50
Eastern Corn belt	68.00 - 75.68	36.97 – 42.00	Heavyweights	28.50 - 38.00	Lightweights	19.50 - 26.00
Iowa, Minn	66.00 – 79.00	-			Boars	
					Heavyweights	13.75
Market Hogs - Millsboro, DE – August 8, 2006 - dollars/cwt 40.00 - 44.00      Next sale date – Sep. 12, 2006						
FEEDER PIGS – (\$/CWT) –						
Gumboro, DE August 8, 2006      Next sale date – Sep. 12, 2006				New Holland, PA		
Head: 271				Head		Trend:
Under 30 lbs	80.00 -139.00	50 - 59 lbs	43.00 - 72.00	Not Available		
30 - 39 lbs	79.00 - 16.00	60 - 69 lbs	41.00			
40 – 49 lbs	40.00 - 06.00					
Chicago Mercantile Exchange \$/cwt) – August 23, 2006						
CATTLE –LIVE FUTURES				HOGS-LEAN FUTURES		
AUG06	87.20	FEB07	91.40	OCT06	66.18	APR07 62.05
OCT06	91.45	APR07	89.95	DEC06	62.75	MAY07 65.78
DEC06	90.80	JUN07	86.45	FEB07	62.38	JUN07 67.10
STOCKER – FEEDER CATTLE – (\$/cwt)						
Winchester, VA – August 21, 2006				Westminster, MD – August 22, 2006		
Steers	300 - 400 lbs	129.00 - 141.00		Steers	200 - 300 lbs	97.50 - 122.00
	400 - 500 lbs	125.00 - 137.00			400 - 500 lbs	93.00 - 101.00
	500 - 600 lbs	119.00 - 130.50			600 - 700 lbs	94.00 - 103.00
	600 - 700 lbs	107.00 - 117.00			800 - 1000 lbs	95.00 - 96.00
	-	700 - 800 lbs	100.00			
Heifers	800 - 900 lbs	91.00 - 96.00		Heifers	200 - 300 lbs	115.00 - 122.00
	300 - 400 lbs	122.00 -132.00			400 - 500 lbs	92.50 - 108.00
	400 - 500 lbs	109.00 -121.50			600 - 700 lbs	95.00
	500 - 600 lbs	101.00 -109.00				
	600 - 700 lbs	98.50 - 106.00				
	700 - 800 lbs	95.50 - 100.00				
	800 - 900 lbs	89.00 - 94.00				
SLAUGHTER CATTLE (\$/cwt)						
Westminster, MD – August 22, 2006				Fed Heifers		
Sltr. Cows				Choice 87.25 - 89.25		
Premium	49.00-52.00			Holsteins 73.00		
Breakers	40.50-46.00			Hols. Bull Calves #1 180.00 - 195.00		
Boners	36.50-39.50			#2 150.00 - 175.00		
Thin/Slow	38.50 & down			#3 110.00 - 140.00		
Fed Steers				Culls 70.00 - 100.00		
Choice & Prime	87.50 - 90.50			Jerseys 5.00 - 70.00		
Low Choice	84.50 - 87.25			Beef Cross 105.00 - 160.00		
Holsteins	67.50 - 74.25			Holstein Heifers #2 culls 210.00 - 260.00		
Lancaster, New Holland & Vintage – August 24, 2006						
Sltr. Steers:				Hols. Steers:		
H Ch & Pr 2-4	1280 -1485 lbs	85.00 - 88.25		Hi Ch & Pr 2-3	1320 - 1585lbs	74.85 - 76.75
YG 4-5	1525 -1565 lbs	85.25 - 86.00		Choice 2-3	1335 - 1570 lbs	73.00 - 76.00
Choice 2- 3	1200 -1440 lbs	83.00 - 86.00		Sel & LoCh 1-2	1315 - 1575 lbs	68.75 - 71.75
	1505 - 1570 lbs	80.00 - 84.25		Select 1-2	1285 - 1465 lbs	64.75 - 66.00
H Sel & LoCh 1-3	1205 -1450 lbs	81.25 - 84.25		Sltr. Cows:	Percent Lean	Bulk
Select 1-2	1135 -1365 lbs	80.50 - 83.00		Premium White	65 - 75	52.25 - 55.50
Sltr Heifers				Breakers	75 - 80	48.25 - 52.75
Ch & Pr 2-4	1090 - 1430 lbs	81.25 - 84.25		Boners	80 - 85	44.75 - 48.50
				Lean	88 - 90	42.00 - 44.75

Compiled by USDA, NASS, Maryland Field Office

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